



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

800 BAY ROAD
P.O. BOX 778
DOVER, DELAWARE 19903

NATHAN HAYWARD III
SECRETARY

MAR 12 2004

March 5, 2004

Mr. Bob Zepp
Program Supervisor
United States Fish & Wildlife Service
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Zepp:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT), will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to consider the construction of a potential new alignment near the City of Milford, northern Sussex County, Delaware. The potential new alignment could connect two existing highways, U.S. Route 113 and Delaware Route 1.

On behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Department would like your concurrence in listing the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) as a cooperating agency in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Milford Study Area, which is part of the Department's overall US 113 North/South Study (Contract #22-127-01). Our request is consistent with the Mid-Atlantic Transportation and Environmental (MATE) Streamlining Process and the associated Data Needs Guidance prepared as part of this process.

There are numerous potential environmental impact concerns as a result of the extent of the project area. In keeping with the MATE initiative, we are proposing to integrate the Section 404 process with the NEPA process for this project and in accordance with 40 CFR, Part 1501.6 of the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provision of the National Environmental Policy Act, we request the USFWS participation as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS. The United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the National Parks Service also have been requested to be cooperating agencies.

In your role as a cooperating agency, we anticipate working with you to resolve issues associated with potential impacts necessitated by this project and to ensure that the environmental documents adequately address these impacts. You will be given an opportunity to review preliminary versions of the draft and final environmental documents and to provide comments. The end result would be that the USFWS would adopt these documents to satisfy environmental and regulatory requirements relative to the Section 404 permit.



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Enclosed please find a copy of the Notice of Intent that was published in the September 5, 2003 issue of the *Federal Register* for your reference. Please respond in writing at your earliest convenience, with your concurrence to this request by signing and returning a copy of this letter to the address provided below:

Delaware Department of Transportation
Project Development – South
Attention: Monroe C. Hite, III
800 Bay Road
P.O. Box 778
Dover, DE 19903

Thank you for your attention. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Monroe C. Hite, III, at (302) 760-2120, or myself at (302) 760-2370.

Sincerely,



Michael H. Simmons
Assistant Director, Project Development

As a representative of the United States Fish & Wildlife Service, we concur with your request that the United States Fish & Wildlife Service be listed as a cooperating agency in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Milford Study Area.

CONCUR:

Signature

Agency

MS:mhm
Enclosure

cc: Robert Kleinburd, Federal Highway Administration, Delaware Division
Carolann Wicks, Chief Engineer
Frederick Schranck, Deputy Attorney General
Terry Petrucci, Director of Public Relations
Terry Fulmer, Manager, Environmental Studies
Donald Plows, Group Engineer, Project Development, Transportation Solutions
Monroe Hite, III, Project Manager, Project Development, Transportation Solutions
Maureen Mauger, Project Engineer, Project Development, Transportation Solutions

Date

3-17-04

USFWS